

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
PC-01 IO-13 /087 W
-----221555Z 070101 /43

O 221430Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3182

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3814

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CG, AO, MOPS
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: KINSHASA 3770

AS REFTEL INDICATES, FOREIGN PRESS HERE REMAINS HIGHLY SKEPTICAL --
DESPITE PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S REPEATED STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY --
OF GOZ CLAIMS OF DIRECT SOVIET/CUBAN INVOLVEMENT. AGAIN, PER
REFTEL, WE HAVE TO DATE NO INDEPENDENT MEANS OF CONFIRMING
THESE STATEMENTS. STILL, AS LONG AS GOZ HAMMERS HOME
SAME THEME, WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE ON AN "IF ASKED"
BASIS:

Q. PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT ZAIRE HAS
CONCRETE PROOF OF DIRECT SOVIET/CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE INVASION
OF SHABA PROVINCE. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION OF THESE CLAIMS?

A. AS WE HAVE NOTED SINCE THE FIRST REPORTS OF THE SHABA
INVASION, WE HAVE HAD NO OBSERVERS IN THE AREA OF OPERATIONS
WEST OF KOLWEZI. WE HAVE SEEN CERTAIN ITEMS OF MILITARY
EQUIPMENT AND DOCUMENTS CAPTURED BY THE ZAIRIAN ARMY WHICH
SUGGEST OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS
OF CUBAN OR SOVIET PERSONNEL TAKEN PRISONER. LET ME POINT
OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE LEVEL OF US ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE HAS NOT
BEEN DEPENDENT ON THE WHATEVER OUTSIDE FORCE MAY OR MAY NOT
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HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY VIEWED THE SHABA
ATTACK AS AN INVASION FROM OUTSIDE WHICH THREATENS ZAIRE'S
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. THAT REMAINS OUR BASIC ASSESSMENT.
CUTLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/04318ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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